GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2670
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
INSPECTION OF TSATICHHU LAKE IN BHUTAN
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experts group was sent to Bhutan for joint inspection of the Tsatichhu Lake in Bhutan posing a threat of floods in Assam and the North-East;

(b) if so, whether bursting of this lake led to colossal flood devastations in Assam and around;

(c) if so, the extent of damages caused; and

(d) the outcome of the joint inspection, its observations and suggestions and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) Yes Sir, an Expert Team visited landslide dam and lake in Bhutan in June, 2004.

(b)&(c) On 10th July, 2004, the landslide dam breached causing damage to paddy fields along some portion of road between Mongar and Lhuenise. On account of early warning system in place, both at Kurichhu Hydropower Project and flood warning stations in Assam timely information was received and as a result no loss of life was reported on account of the breach.

(d) The report of the Expert Group mentioned the condition of the landslide dam and lake. The team suggested some remedial measures for safety of the dam and to avoid its failure. However, the project authorities of Kurichhu project expressed their inability to carry out any such measure in view of inaccessibility of site, non-availability of infrastructural facilities and impending monsoon. The observations of the Expert Group which visited earlier before the dam breach will not be of much help in the changed scenario after bursting of the lake.